

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A retrieval system for retrieving an image from data base, comprising:

a storage device for storing compressed image data of said image; and

a retrieval device for retrieving said image while said compressed image data is in a compressed state.

2. The retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising a compression device for compressing image data of said image to produce said compressed image data.

3. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said compression device performs normalization of said image data prior to compression of said image data of said image.

4. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores said compressed image data of said image and information of said image under a correspondence therebetween.

5. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said information of a corresponding image is read from said data

base in accordance with a result retrieved by said retrieval device.

6. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores image data of said image after said image is split into a plurality of regions and wherein said retrieval device performs retrieval of said compressed image data after said image data in regions which are in a point symmetry relation with each other about the center of said image are unified.

7. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said compressed image data comprises spatial coefficients of a luminance signal and a color difference signal.

8. The retrieval system according to claim 7, wherein said retrieval device performs at least one of retrieval by comparing the spatial coefficients of the luminance signal up to a specified order with each other to select objects to be retrieved and thereafter by comparing the spatial coefficients of the color difference signal of the thus selected objects to be retrieved to another specified order with each other, and retrieval by comparing the spatial coefficients of the

luminance signal up to a higher order than the previously specified order with each other.

9. The retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval device performs priority ranking of said compressed image data to be candidates.

10. The retrieval system according to claim 9, wherein, after said compressed image data is extended, one or more images are represented as visible images in accordance with the result of said priority ranking.

11. The retrieval system according to claim 4, wherein said information of said image is at least one of image data of the image of interest and information of image processing to which the image of interest is subjected.

12. An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image processing device for subjecting image or image data thereof to image processing;

a setting device for setting said image processing which said image processing device performs in accordance with said image or the image data thereof;

a storage device for storing compressed image data of said image or said image data thereof and information of said image processing to which said image or the image data thereof corresponding to said compressed image data is subjected under a correspondence therebetween; and

a retrieval device for retrieving said image stored in said storage device while said compressed image data is in a compressed state to read said information of the image processing corresponding to the image of interest.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein, when said information of the image processing corresponding to said image retrieved by said retrieval device is read out in accordance with an instruction for reprocessing said image or the image data thereof, said setting device reproduces said image processing to which said image or the image data thereof has previously been subjected using the thus read information of said image processing.

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a compression device for compressing said image data of said image to produce said compressed image data.